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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/780,390

Examiner

Laura Edwards

Applicant(s)

FAN ET AL.

Art Unit

1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the filing of the application as of 2/17/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 33-61 which have been renumbered as claims 1-29 respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 021704
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


LAURA EDWARDS
 PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

On page 1, line 1, --This application is a divisional application of US Serial No. 10/262768 filed 10/02/02, now U.S. Patent No. 6,777,163-- has been inserted.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 33-49 are allowable because there is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art of an apparatus for applying particulate material on a photopolymerizable element useful as a flexographic printing plate comprising the combination of means for forming a layer of a molten photopolymerizable material onto a support; means for applying particulate material onto an exterior surface of the photopolymerizable layer opposite the support; and means for providing relative movement between the layer of photopolymerizable material and the means for applying particulate material, wherein the exterior surface of the photopolymerizable layer has area portions each of which experience the same or substantially the same particulate application conditions.

Claims 50-60 are allowable because there is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art of an apparatus for applying particulate material on a photopolymerizable element useful as a

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flexographic printing plate comprising the combination of means for mounting the photopolymerizable element having a layer of photopolymerizable material on a support; means for applying the particulate material onto an exterior surface of the photopolymerizable layer opposite the support; and means for providing relative movement between the photopolymerizable layer and the means for applying the particulate material, wherein the exterior surface of the photopolymerizable layer has area portions each of which experience the same or substantially the same particulate application conditions.

Claim 61 is allowable because there is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art of an apparatus for applying particulate material on a photopolymerizable element useful as a flexographic printing plate comprising the combination of means for mounting the photopolymerizable element having a layer of photopolymerizable material on a cylindrical support; means for applying the particulate material onto an exterior surface of the photopolymerizable layer opposite the support, wherein the means for applying comprises an applicator assembly having a cylindrical applicator pad; and means for heating the exterior surface of the photopolymerizable layer.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


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The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents disclose the state of the art with respect to apparatus for manufacturing flexographic printing plates: Vrotacoe et al (US 6,769,363), Borski (US 6,742,453), and Hartman et al (US 6,576,075).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura Edwards whose telephone number is (571) 272-1227. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Fiorilla can be reached on (571) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Laura Edwards
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1734

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December 27, 2004